

Serial No. 09/939,707

REMARKS

Applicants respond to an Advisory Action mailed December 2, 2004, which indicated that the Amendment After Final filed August 25, 2004, was not entered due to an improper dependency of claim 45 on canceled claims. Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner and that claims 30-37 and 40-51 be allowed.

In the Final Office Action dated May 28, 2004, the Examiner allowed claim 47 and objected to claims 30-37, 40-44, and 46, but maintained that these claims were allowable if re-written in independent form. The Examiner rejected claims 25-29, 38-39, and 45.

With this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 30, 34, 35, 36, and 40 to include the limitations of base claim 25. Applicants have not, however, amended objected-to claims 44 and 46, as these claims were already in independent form.

Applicants have canceled the rejected claims, with the exception of claim 45, which, as amended, now depends from independent claim 46, which has not been rejected.

Applicants have added new claims 48-51 and submit that the proposed new claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants request entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

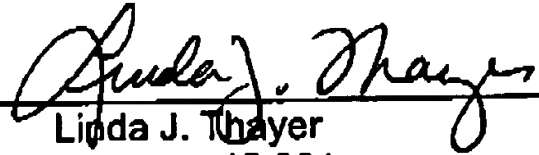
Serial No. 09/939,707

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 17, 2004

By: 
Linda J. Thayer
Reg. No. 45,681